

Message Text

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13

ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 NEA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 EB-11

COME-00 INT-08 FEA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-14 SCI-06

DRC-01 /154 W

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O R 011005Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2870

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMXMBASSY COPENHAGEN 1091

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSIVN OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 0566

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NL

SUBJ: ENERGY: FURTHER APPROACH TO GON ON ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: A. STATE 19381, B. THE HAGUE 0565

1. ON JANUARY 31 DCM GAVE MERKELBACH (PRIME MINISTER'S

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FOREIGN AFFAIRSSADVISOR) A COPY OF AMBASSADOR'S LETTER

TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER SETTING FORTH US VIEWS ON AGENDA AND SCENARIO FOR WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. MERCKELBACH INDICATED THAT THE MESSAGE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE TIMELY SINCE CABINET WOULD BE MEETING THE NEXT DAY TO DECIDE ON MODALITIES OF NETHERLANDS' PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE. REFERRING TO NETHERLANDS' CENTRAL POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM SITUATION AND PARTICULARLY CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WHICH OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD DEVELOPED ON THIS SUBJECT IN LAST FEW MONTHS, DCM EMPHASIZED DESIRABILITY OF DUTCH PARTICIPATION IN PREPARATORY DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON AS OUTLINED PARA REF (A). DCM ALSO MADE STRONG PPTCH FOR HIGH-LEVEL GON PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE ITSELF TO INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE OTHER CABINET MINISTER IN ADDITION TO VAN DER STOEL. FINALLY DCM CALLED ATTENTION TO WASHINGTON'S TENTATIVE SCENARIO WHICH CONTEMPLATED A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE WITH POSSIBILITY OF RUNNING INTO A THIRD DAY. DURATION OF CONFERENCE COULD ONLY BE AN EDUCATED ESTIMATE AS EXPLAINED IN PARA 5 REF (A) BUT DCM EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT NETHERLANDS DELEGATION, OR AT LEAST THE BULK OF IT, COULD REMAIN FOR THE WHOLE CONFERENCE.

2. MERCKELBACH READ THE TEXT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S LETTER CAREFULLY AND OFFERED LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT. HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT WASHINGTON'S PROPOSED AGENDA AND SCENARIO GAVE HIM ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. HE ASKED IF A CHOICE HAD TO BE MADE BETWEEN ECONOMICS MINISTER LUBBERS AND FINANCE MINISTER DUISENBERG WHICH WOULD BE MORE SUITABLE. DCM REPLIED THAT BOTH WOULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE. WE WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE GON'S DECISION OTHER THAN TO NOTE ONCE AGAIN THAT ALL OF OUR TOP OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM WOULD BE PRESENT. WE ENCOURAGED GON TO BE FULLY REPRESENTED AT A COMPARABLY HIGH LEVEL. MERCKELBACH SAID THAT HE WOULD SHOW THE PRIME MINISTER THE LETTER IMMEDIATELY. GOULD

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